

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05678 191000Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 INT-05 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 /082 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7078
INFO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5678

CINCPACREP FOR HICOM TTPI AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, TQ
SUBJECT: MARIANAS LEGISLATORS CLAIMS VISIT TO TOKYO

REF: A. STATE 65446, B. TOKYO 3895

SUMMARY: FIVE-MAN DELEGATION OF NORTHERN MARIANAS
LEGISLATORS HELD PLANNED FONOFF MEETING APRIL 18 TO
APPEAL FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO CONSTITUENTS
WHOSE CLAIMS NOT SETTLED UNDER USG-GOJ CLAIMS AGREEMENT
OF 1969. FONOFF REP REPLIED AGREEMENT DISCHARGED
ALL GOJ LIABILITY FOR WWII INJURIES TO MICRONESIANS
AND DELEGATION MUST ADDRESS COMPLAINTS TO USG
AS TTPI ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER EMB AUSPICES, FIVE-MAN DELEGATION OF
NORTHERN MARIANAS LEGISLATORS, HEADED BY SENATOR
VILLANUEVA, MET FOR TWO HOURS APRIL 18 WITH FONOFF
FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIVISION DIRECTOR WATANABE
TO MAKE APPEAL FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO
CONSTITUENTS WHOSE CLAIMS NOT SETTLED UNDER CLAIMS
AGREEMENT. IN GENERALLY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, WATANABE
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EXPLAINED GOJ LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC INABILITY TO CONSIDER
APPEAL, BECAUSE AGREEMENT FULLY DISCHARGED GOJ
LIABILITY AND MATTER COULD ONLY BE REOPENED WITH
GOJ AT INSTIGATION OF USG. WATANABE EXPRESSED
SYMPATHY BUT ADVISED GROUP TO ADDRESS COMPLAINTS
TO USG AS TTPI ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. VILLANUEVA
REPLIED THAT, IN FACT, PRIMARY TARGET OF EFFORT IS

USG BUT APPROACH TO FONOFF WAS TO INFORM GOJ THAT IT "SHARES RESPONSIBILITY.

2. CLAIMING GREAT DISSATISFACTION IN NORTHERN MARIANAS WITH TERMS OF 1969 AGREEMENT, VILLANUEVA STATED DELEGATION'S OBJECTIVE IS TO RE-OPEN AGREEMENT, EXPAND NUMBER OF PEOPLE COVERED, AND SECURE GREATER FUNDING. MAJOR COMPLAINTS AGOUT AGREEMENT ARE:

-- PACT MADE BETWEEN USG AND GOJ WITHOUT ADEQUATE PARTICIPATION OF MICRONESIAN VICTIMS.

-- ARBITRARY ONE-YEAR LIMIT FOR FILING CLAIMS EXCLUDED MANY APPLICANTS IN FAR-FLUNG ISLANDS WHO COULD NOT MAKE DEADLINE.

-- FUNDING OF \$10 MILLION INADEQUATE: 660 PERCENT OF CLAIMS ACCEPTED UNDER TITLE I AND 32 PERCENT UNDER TITLE II REMAIN UNPAID FOR LACK OF FUNDS.

-- MANY LEGITIMATE CLAIMS DENIED BECAUSE LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THEM. DELEGATION CITED TITLE II REQUIREMENT THAT INJURIES MUST HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN AREA OF TTPI; VILLANUEVA STATED HE KNOWS OF 50 OTHERWISE VALID CLAIMS DENIED BECAUSE INJURY SUSTAINED ON GUAM OR IN SE ASIA.

3. DELEGATION EMPHASIZED THAT FUTURE HARMONY BETWEEN JAPAN AND NORTHERN MARIANAS DEPENDENT UPON RESOLUTION OF STILL-SMOLDERING CLAIMS PROBLEM. HE TOLD WATANABE THAT GOJ MAY HAVE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT IN GOOD FAITH BUT SHOULD NOW BE AWARE OF CONTINUING DISSATISFACTION. LEGAL QUESTIONS ASIDE, USG AND GOJ
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JOINTLY HAVE MORAL OBLIGATION TO SOLVE CLAIMS PROBLEM, HE SAID.

4. COMMENT: WATANABE REPLIED TO APPEAL IN CORRECT MANNER, LEGALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY, AND LEGISLATORS UNDERSTOOD HIS REJOINDER. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED AT DEGREE OF EXPRESSED DISCONTENT WITH AGREEMENT WHICH GOJ BELIEVES SETTLED MICRONESIAN CLAIMS QUESTION. EFFECT MAY HAVE BEEN TO BUILD INDIRECT PRESSURE ON USG FOR REOPENING ISSUE AND VISITING MARIANANS HAVE INDICATED THEY PLAN TO CONCENTRATE FURTHER EFFORTS ON WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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